



horizontal component;

- A
- b. a source of penetrating radiation, mounted on the bed for providing a beam having a central axis, the central axis being predominantly horizontal component];
 - c. a motorized drive for moving the bed in the first direction;
 - d. at least one scatter detector mounted on the bed, each scatter detector having a signal output;

so that, as the bed is moved forward and backward along the direction, the beam is caused to traverse the cargo container as the bed is moved and each scatter detector provides a signal for characterizing the cargo container and any contents of the cargo container.

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- 2. (new) A device according to claim 1, wherein the a source of penetrating radiation is characterized by a source axis adjustable over a range of angles about the horizontal.
 - 3. (new) A device according to claim 1, further including a remotely operated actuator for setting a desired x-ray beam angle.
 - 4. (new) A device according to claim 1, further including an interlock for disabling the source of penetrating radiation unless the bed is in motion.
 - 5. (new) A device according to claim 1, wherein the scatter detector is a backscatter detector.
 - 6. (new) A device according to claim 1, wherein the beam is a pencil beam scanned repeatedly about an axis orthogonal to the source axis.
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